

No fools paradise for Hayes now

Hayes 0 Wycombe Wanderers 3

A RAZOR-SHARP Wycombe attack cut Hayes to shreds in the second half of Monday's Rothman's Isthmian League match at Church Road. And Hayes helped in their downfall by giving an atrocious display.

They fell to pieces when Wycombe scored their second "killer" goal, and there was only one team in it for the rest of the match.

The two-goal lead brought all that is good out of Wy-

combe and Hayes uncharacteristically held back in mid-field and defence to let them get on with it, writes PAUL HARRINGTON.

Still, this scoreline stops Hayes living in a fool's paradise. This is the first real opposition they have faced since new manager Roger Thompson took over. Now he knows what work is to be done — and on this showing he must have put himself on overtime.

FUMBLING

Hayes, as usual, had nothing up front; they had precious little in mid-field and the limitations of the back four were often exposed.

Yet through all their fumbings, guts and enthusiasm kept them in the game until Wycombe scored their second goal, a real beauty, 16 minutes into the second half.

Wycombe's first goal, and the one that knocked Hayes clean out of their stride, followed a diabolical decision by referee Mr. R. S. Lewis. He allowed a trip on Graham Thomas by Tony Horsman to go unchecked, and the Wycombe poacher entered the Hayes penalty area with a clear sight of goal before beating Graham Cracknell.

The game was only five minutes old. Hayes were in trouble and the fumbings of the referee, and one of his linesmen in particular, didn't help their cause.

Steve Senior and Tommy James were missing from the Hayes firing line so Roy Butler had another frustrating 90 minutes trying to pierce a back four containing players of the calibre of Keith Mead and Dave Bullock.

DEBUT

Dave Yerby made a disappointing debut in his return to Church Road and Eggy James was often out of his depth against such an accomplished defence.

However, James, with big John Wilks, carried Hayes' hopes of an equaliser twice in the first half when both beat keeper John Maskell in hair-raising chases for the ball but each time the final prod was just wide of goal.

And this sadly was as near a shot as Hayes could muster. The pressure was on Cracknell at the other end most of the time and he came through with flying colours until Wycombe poached their second goal.

Horsman shed his years by sprinting down the wing with a long ball out of defence. As Cracknell advanced to narrow the angle, the pass was put inside for Steve Perrin to sweep the ball first time into the net. Simple, effective but glorious in its execution.

Mick Hollifield smacked a shot in the Hayes side netting before Larry Pritchard made it 3-0 and £40 win bonus to Wycombe with a lob from the edge of the area.

Horsman would have had a couple more but for the brilliance of Cracknell. The goalkeeper's bravery then saved Hayes again when he dived at Sperrin's feet as the big striker broke through.

Hayes: G. Cracknell; K. Kent, M. Bell, B. Hatt, G. Thomas, L. Hartridge; S. Palfrey, R. James, R. Butler, D. Yerby, J. Wilks. Subs: J. O'Sullivan.